

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 AID-05 DODE-00 MC-02 L-02 CIAE-00

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DRAFTED BY EA/ANP:HHLANGE:MHS
APPROVED BY EA/ANP:JFKNOWLES
PM/SA:/DMCCLINTOCK (SUBS)
AID/CM/EPD:WGAMBLE (PHONE)
OSD (DSAA)TM:CAPT. CANTACUZENE
EA - AMBASSADOR SELDEN

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P R 192208Z NOV 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SUVA PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

UNCLAS STATE 255163

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, FJ
SUBJECT: PATROL CRAFT FOR FIJI

REF: SUVA 1071

HALL FROM AMBASSADOR SELDEN

1. HAVE IDENTIFIED POSSIBLE NAVAL VESSELS WHICH MAY MEET
FIJI'S NEEDS. FOLLOWING IS GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF TWO
VESSELS WHICH MAY BE AVAILABLE IN NEAR FUTURE:

COASTAL MINE-SWEEPERS, WOODEN-HULLED, 20 YEARS OLD,
144 FEET LONG, TOP SPEED 13 KNOTS, DIESEL ENGINE, SIMPLE
ELECTRONICS, 350 TONS, RANGE 2500 MILES, ARMED WITH ONE
TWIN 20 MM GUN. COST TO FIJI FOR EACH OF THESE VESSELS
WOULD BE APPROXIMATELY \$20,000 TO \$30,000 PLUS LIKE AMOUNT
FOR OVERHAUL, PLUS SHIPPING TO FIJI. UNOFFICIALLY,
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SOURCES HERE REGARD THIS AS BARGAIN.

2. WE HAVE ALSO EXPLORED AVAILABILITY OF VESSELS THROUGH AID. THIS FALLS UNDER CATEGORY OF ECONOMIC AID, AND IF AS WE UNDERSTAND FIJI INTENDS TO OPERATE CRAFT WITH MILITARY PERSONNEL FOR MILITARY PURPOSES, THIS PROGRAM WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT APPLY. COSTS ARE VARIABLE, DEPENDING ON COST OF RECONDITIONING, BUT MAY RUN TO 50 PERCENT OR MORE OF ORIGINAL ACQUISITION COST. FYI, FOLLOWING SORTS OF VESSELS

BECOME AVAILABLE FROM TIME TO TIME UNDER THIS PROGRAM:

A) RANGE CONTROL BOAT, LENGTH 45 FT., WOODEN-HULLED, SPEED 11 KNOTS.

B) WHALE BOAT, LENGTH 33 FT., WOODEN HULL WITH FIBERGLASS COVER, SPEED NOT SPECIFIED.

C) PICKET BOAT, LENGTH 44 FT. WOODEN HULL, SPEED 14 KNOTS.

3. PROSPECTS FAVORABLE THAT SHIPS LISTED PARA 1 MIGHT BE AVAILABLE AND THAT NECESSARY CLEARANCES FOR TRANSFER COULD BE OBTAINED. IN ORDER TO PROCEED FURTHER, WE NEED FOLLOWING INFORMATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE:

A. DOES FIJI INTEND TO OPERATE BOATS WITH MILITARY FORCES? THIS WOULD PLACE MATTER CLEARLY IN CATEGORY OF MILITARY AID.

B. DOES TYPE OF VESSELS DISCUSSED IN PARA 1 MEET REQUIREMENTS, AND WOULD GOF WISH US TO MOVE AHEAD ON THEM? ARE MORE DETAILED SPECIFICATIONS DESIRED?

C. IF VESSELS LISTED NOT SUITABLE, CAN GOF BE MORE PRECISE ON WHAT TYPE OF CRAFT IT IS INTERESTED IN? INGERSOLL

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